

**REMARKS**

Claims 5, 9 and 10 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 10 and intervening claim 5. Claims 6-8 and 15 have been amended to correct for dependency. The application now includes claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-20.

Claim 10 was identified to be allowable in the previous office action. In response, and to advance the case to allowance without prejudice, claim 1 has been amended to set forth claim 10 has the base independent claim. In view of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-8, and 11-20 should now be in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Reconsideration at an early date is requested.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P.C.)

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Whitham  
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.  
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340  
Reston, VA 20190

Tel. (703) 787-9400  
Fax. (703) 787-7557  
Customer No.: 30743